

REMARKS

Claims 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 24 and 25 are pending in the application. Claims 20, 24 and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-10, 22 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has allowed claims 11 and 14-18 and has indicated that claims 20, 21, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 19, there being no intervening claims. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 19 and of intervening claim 23. Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 19, there being no intervening claims. Claim 21 is dependent on amended claim 20. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 20 and its dependent claim 21 and independent claims 24 and 25 are now allowable.

The Office Action has indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on August 4, 2003 fails to comply with CFR 1.98(a)(1) and has been placed in the file and not considered. In a teleconference on May 25, 2005, the Examiner withdrew this indication because the August 4, 2003 IDS Form PTO-1449 was previously considered, initialed and attached to the first Office Action dated May 7, 2004.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,204,663 to Lee. In the aforementioned teleconference, the Examiner stated that claim 10 was intended to be rejected as anticipated by Lee. This rejection is moot since claims 1 and 3-10 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 19, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee. This rejection is moot since claims 19, 22 and 23 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S Patent No.6,005,487 to Hyatt, Jr. et al. This rejection is moot since claim 2 has been canceled.

The Office Action cites a number of patents that were not applied in the rejections of the claims. These patents have been reviewed, but are believed to be inapplicable to the claims.

Noting that claims 11 and 14-18 are allowed, it is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the objection to the IDS filed on August 4, 2003 be withdrawn, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 20, 21, 24 and 25 also be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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